

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application in view of the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-27 are pending in this application. By this amendment Claims 1, 13 and 25 have been amended to correct obvious typographical errors; and Claims 26 and 27 have been added. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter has been added.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1-25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(e) as being anticipated by Nakamura et al., (U.S. 2002/0181738A1, hereinafter Nakamura). It appears that there is a typographical error contained in the statement of the rejection and that the rejection should have read that “Claims 1-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Nakamura et al., (U.S. 2002/0181738A1).”

Each of the independent claims pending in the application, Claims 1, 13, 25, 26 and 27 includes recitation of “synthesizing image information data”. Further, each of Claims 1, 13, 25, 26 and 27 recites “controlling synthesis of ... image information data ... and synthesizing image information data ... for every arbitrary area of the ... image corresponding to the ... image information data.” These recited features are neither described by nor obviated over Nakamura.

Nakamura describes digital watermark embedding “for embedding in a picture a digital watermark (also called “data hiding”) as additional information that cannot be recognized in normal observation conditions.” (paragraph [0002]) In Nakamura pixel levels are numerically changed in a way that is not noticeable to the observer. As described, for example, in paragraphs [0015]-[0025] pixel levels which have a value range between 20 and 30 are changed by either -1 or +1 for purposes of embedding the watermark. In one example described by Nakamura the sum of values set for the pixels of the digital watermark pattern is 0 to prevent the watermark pattern from being observable by the picture viewer. One purpose

of the embedded watermark is to prevent unauthorized copying of the recorded image. Thus, the watermark data is not an image data. This is in contrast to Applicant's claimed synthesizing image information data which is an image that is viewable by the observer. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that FIG. 9 of Nakamura does not disclose the claimed invention.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of Claims 1-25 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Nakamura be reconsidered and withdrawn and Claims 1-27 should be found allowable.

Consequently, for the reasons discussed in detail above no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. Therefore, a notice of allowance is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned representative at the below listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

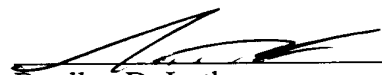
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